



Congressman Bud Cramer

November 2004

E-Newsletter

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One of the most important duties of a U.S. Representative is to help the community improve its overall quality of life and prepare itself for the future. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I am in a strong position to provide funding for projects that will improve our infrastructure, enrich numerous necessary local programs, and encourage economic development. I'm pleased to report that the U.S. House of Representatives recently approved over \$62 million for projects in North Alabama. This funding was included in the Fiscal Year 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which is comprised of nine of the thirteen appropriations bills. Our community is a wonderful place and I'm pleased that my colleagues were able to see the value of these projects and how they will benefit our area. As your Representative in Washington, I will continue to work hard and fight for North Alabama to ensure it is a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Bud Cramer

Washington Update

The U.S. House of Representatives approved the FY 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill on Saturday, November 20. Below are some of the highlights from the bill. For more information about this bill visit the Congressman's website at <http://cramer.house.gov>.

Included in the Omnibus bill was \$16.2 billion for NASA and its programs. The funding provided is an increase of \$800 million above last year's enacted level, which provides the total funding level requested by the president. Cramer said, "I fought very hard to make sure that NASA got the funding level it needed and I hope that NASA will utilize this increase to provide a strong start to its mission of exploration."

Economic Development:

"I have always stressed the importance of regional economic development and I'm pleased that the omnibus bill provides funding for projects that will help North Alabama remain competitive and attract good jobs to our community."

- \$11 million for the construction of the new air traffic control tower at the Huntsville International Airport.
- \$1 million for the interchange at Interstate 65 and Limestone County Road 24.
- \$1 million to help Northwest Shoals Community College complete its Center for Business and Industry.
- \$75,000 for the 21st Century Council – IMPACT Learning Center for workforce development and training.



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Infrastructure:

"I work hard to ensure that North Alabama is well prepared for future growth and development. As North Alabama continues to grow, we will improve our infrastructure to meet our future demands."

- \$600,000 to the City of Muscle Shoals for water and wastewater system infrastructure improvements.
- \$500,000 to the Scottsboro Waterworks, Sewer, and Gas Board for construction and rehabilitation of a sanitary sewer collection system.
- \$500,000 to Lawrence County for the Bankhead Forest Water Project.
- \$400,000 to Hartselle Utilities for wastewater infrastructure improvements.
- \$300,000 to the Limestone County Water and Sewer Authority for water system infrastructure improvements.

Law Enforcement:

"I commend the outstanding work being conducted by our local law enforcement officers. Everyday our law enforcement officers put themselves on the front lines and it is important that they have the equipment and training they need to protect our lives and our personal property."

- \$500,000 to assist the Madison County Sheriff's Department make technology and equipment upgrades.
- \$180,000 to the Morgan County Sheriff's Department for technology and equipment upgrades.
- \$50,000 for the Colbert County Sheriff's Office methamphetamine initiative.
- \$50,000 for the Lauderdale County Sheriff's Office methamphetamine initiative.

Enhancements of Community Programs:

"In addition to transportation, law enforcement, and water and sewer projects the Omnibus Bill provides funding for vital programs that help preserve the richness of our unique area and enhance the quality of our community for many years to come."

- \$300,000 to the Huntsville Museum of Art for exhibits, technology, outreach and educational programs.
- \$121,250 to the Huntsville-Madison County Botanical Gardens for facilities improvements.
- \$121,250 to the Helen Keller Birthplace Foundation for facilities restoration of Ivy Green, Helen Keller's birthplace.
- \$97,000 to the 1856 Memphis and Charleston Railroad Freight Depot for repairs and renovations.
- \$72,750 to the Princess Theatre Center for Performing Arts for facilities renovations.
- \$48,500 to the Muscle Shoals Regional Center at the University of North Alabama for a feasibility study to develop tourism and regional economic development.